Navy also carries out additional publicity and recruitment effort to attract more candidates.

(c) Shortages of manpower will not effect combat capability to any extent.

Securing air corridors

1525. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that despite existence of seven Air Defence Identification Zones (ADIZs) all along country's territorial border to detect an incoming flight, there is a fairly wide air-corridor in country's South-Eastern region to let any enemy plane sneak into the Indian airspace right upto Bhopal according to Security Experts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to enhance lower level air surveillance capability of the Indian Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) At present there are eight Indian Air Defence Identification Zones (ADIZs) over Indian airspace. Central and South-Eastern Regions have lesser traffic density and low threat perception. However, Indian Air Force has adequate air defence measures in place to thwart mis-adventures of any aircraft in these sectors.

(c) Modernization and enhancement of air surveillance capability is a continuous endeavour of the Government.

Decrease in terrorist activities after withdrawal of troops from border

1526. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether withdrawal of forces from border has resulted in any decrease in the terrorist activities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is no relation between the redeployment of the Armed Forces and the decrease in the terrorists activities. The decision on strategic redeployment of the Armed Forces does not envisage any lowering of the vigil on the Line of Control and of Counter Insurgency Grid in Jammu and Kashmir.

Joint INDO-US Navy Patrols in Malacca Straits

1527. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy is carrying out patrols with the US Navy in Malacca Straits;

(b) if so, the objective of this patrolling;

(c) when was this patrolling started and for how long it is likely to continue; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Civil and Military Liaison Conference at AOC Centre, Hyderabad

1528. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Civil and Military Liaison Conference was held at AOC Centre, Hyderabad;

(b) whether a suggestion was made there that the representatives of the Army and Civil Officers at the district level should meet twice a year to sort out problems; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) According to the reports received from Army Headquarters, a